

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ON-FILE NSC  
RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Brent -

I can not recall

Such an attack on a  
President of the U.S. <sup>(since the)</sup> During  
the talks in Jerusalem,

HAK warned Rabin, Poves +

All on sternly that they would  
make a big mistake to attack  
President Ford -

*[Signature]*

15v

RIS 20

*Is press criticism  
of the President**FD  
FD*ISRAEL: PAPER SAYS FORD HOLDS BRIDGE AGAINST ISRAEL

TA231RT TEL AVUV HA'AREZ IN HEBREW 23 APR 75 P 13 TA

COMMENTARY BY DAN MARGALIT, HA'AREZ CORRESPONDENT IN THE UNITED STATES: "FORD BEARS A BRIDGE"

(TEXT) A OLD MAN WHO IS DEVELOPING A BRIDGE AGAINST ISRAEL IS NOW SETTING UP A BRIDGE. IN NO WAY DOES HE NOW RESEMBLE THE GERALD FORD WHO, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM MICHIGAN, SIGNED PETITIONS FOR ARMS FOR ISRAEL AND SPOKE AT MEETINGS OF THE JEWISH LOBBY. A FEW HOURS AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON LEFT WASHINGTON, WITH THE FEELING THAT A NEW LEAF HAD BEEN TURNED IN THE U.S.-ISRAEL DIALOGUE, FORD GRAVELY DISAPPOINTED DIPLOMATIC COMMENTATORS WHO CLOSELY FOLLOW THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

THE PRESIDENT WAS INTERVIEWED FOR AN HOUR BY A CBS TELEVISION NETWORK TEAM. THROUGHOUT THE BROADCAST HE DEMONSTRATED HIS OLD SHOULDERS TOWARD ISRAEL. ONE COULD HEAR THE DISSONANCE OF HIS OWN EVASION OF THE DIRECT QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ISRAEL WOULD CONTINUE TO ENJOY SYMPATHETIC AND PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES. HE MADE A POINT OF SAYING THAT HE HAD NO SPECIAL REASON FOR MEETING WITH YIGAL ALLON IN PARTICULAR, CERTAINLY NO MORE THAN WITH THE HEADS OF MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES.

THE "REASSESSMENT" WILL ALSO EXAMINE THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. IT IS NATURAL FOR THE SUBJECT TO BE EXAMINED, BUT FORD PRESENTED IT AS IF THERE ARE TWO EQUAL SIDES, ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS, WHO REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER.

PARTICULARLY GRAVE IS FORD'S EXPLANATION, WHICH GIVES CREDIBILITY TO THE ARAB THREAT TO IMPOSE THE OIL EMBARGO. FORD MONCHS ISRAEL HAS IMPOSED THE WHITE HOUSE NOT TO DESCRIBE THE DANGER OF THE EMBARGO AS CONCRETE, BOTH BECAUSE IT DIMINISHED AFTER THE WAR, AND BECAUSE THIS INTENS FIES A AN AGGRESSIVENESS. FORD KNEW QUITE WELL THAT AMBASSADOR KUNITZ HAD NOT STOPPED EXPLAINING THE HARM THAT WOULD BE DONE, BUT ON MONDAY NIGHT THE PRESIDENT ADOPTED THE MORE EXTREME LINE. A NEW WAR, HE ASSERTED WITH CERTAINTY, WOULD CAUSE ANOTHER OIL EMBARGO.

*(he has said  
this  
before)*

ONE HAD TO WATCH THE WAY FORD AVOIDED EXPRESSING ANY SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL MONDAY NIGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE AMOUNT OF ILLUSION WHICH ALLON HAS BEEN NURSING IN THIS ATTEMPT TO "AGREE WITH EVERYTHING THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED IN PUBLIC." THIS TIME FORD EXPRESSED HIS FIRMLY WITH ISRAEL NOT ONLY BY DROPPING HIMSELF, BUT BY THE DISMISSAL OF THE ARAB THREAT MAINLY IN THE REASSESSMENT OF AMERICA'S POLICY AND MEETING WITH YIGAL ALLON WHO PREACHES AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. ALL THIS CLEARLY INDICATES THE BEGINNING OF THE TENDENCY THAT IS TAKING SHAPE IN DETERMINING U.S. POLICY.

ONE MUST EXPECT A HARDENING AND A REAVTION OF U.S. EXPRESSIONS TOWARD ISRAEL AND NEW DEFINITIONS OF U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS IS NOT A CONFRONTATION LIKE THE ONE WITH PRESIDENT EISENHOWER IN 1957, BUT HEAVY PRESSURE IS BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR.

--THE ADMINISTRATION THINKS THAT CONSTANT PRESSURE WILL BEND ISRAEL TO ITS KNEES. THE U.S. EXPERTS ARE CONVINCED THAT ISRAEL'S ADVANTAGE IS SO GREAT THAT IT COULD NOT TO ACCEDE TO U.S. REQUESTS. THEY WANT TO CHANGE THAT SITUATION, AND SO DOES FORD.

HOWEVER, FORD SPOKE NOT ONLY ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. HE INTENDS TO RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, AND IF HE DOES, HE WILL, WITHIN A LIMITED TIME, HAVE TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE JEWS UNLESS HE HAS REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT JEWISH SUPPORT IS MORE OF A LIABILITY THAN AN ASSET. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ISRAEL DOES NOT ENJOY ANY LONG-TERM ADVANTAGE, BUT ONE ALSO GETS THE IMPRESSION THAT FORD'S TIME TO PRESS FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT IS LIMITED.

FORD SPOKE ABOUT THREE POSSIBILITIES: CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT GENEVA; NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA ALONE OR AN INTERIM AGREEMENT UNTIL THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS CONVENED. THE WAY HE PRESENTED THINGS SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT AT THIS STAGE HE IS INTERESTED IN ANOTHER INTERIM SETTLEMENT ON THE WAY TOWARD GENEVA.

IT IS RATHER REGRETTABLE THAT IN THIS LIVE INTERVIEW FORD WAS ASKED A LOT OF UNPLEASANT QUESTIONS, SUCH AS, DOES ISRAEL, WITH ALL THAT IS HAPPENING TO VIETNAM, NOT HAVE CAUSE TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF U.S. PROMISES AND GUARANTEES, PARTICULARLY, VIEW THE U.S. PRESIDENT HIMSELF, A FEW MINUTES EARLIER, HAD ADMITTED THAT HIS COUNTRY HAD NOT STOOD BY THOSE COMMITMENTS.

3 APR 22 15Z Z DBY/MK